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ing, and ultimately decomposes without having contributed anything to the vital growth or protection of the seed. Of course this view is speculative, and close microscopic observations upon the ovule, both before and after fertilization, are essential to a decisive interpretation of the structure I have described. It may even appear that the elastic coat and the intermediate layer are both developed after fertilization and are, therefore, of the nature of a double aril, tenacious without and pulpy within. A considerable resemblance certainly exists between the external coat and the loose membranaceous aril in *Castalia*, Salisb., more especially as both originate at a point below the summit of the funiculus. An aril, however (see Gray's definition, l.c., p. 308), is an accessory seed-covering, "more or less incomplete," whereas in *Smilax* the external coat is complete in every respect. At any rate, whether testa or aril, the whole subject is novel and interesting, and is strongly commended to physiological botanists and microscopists, who may have access to the fruit of *Smilax* in its earliest stages.

E. E. STERNS.

P. S.—Since writing the foregoing I have examined fresh ripe berries of *S. Walteri*, Pursh, and sub-species *S. Wrightii*, A. DC. (= *S. tamnoides*, of Chapman's Flora, in part.) In the former the exterior coat is thin and easily broken, and its elasticity is not especially marked. In *S. Wrightii*, however, the "stretch-berry" of the southwest, this coat is extraordinarily elastic, and can be readily extended without breaking to five or six times its original length! A still more recent examination, this time of very young berries of *S. pumila*, Walt., barely one-fourth the size of the ripe fruit, shows the outer coat as complete in form at this stage as at maturity, and already strikingly elastic. Although this is a strong confirmation of the testa theory, microscopic study of the ovule is still essential to settle the question absolutely.

E. E. S.

Another Station for *Rhododendron Vaseyi*.

RHODODENDRON VASEYI, Gray. Proc. Am. Ac., xv., 48: Bot. Gaz., viii., 282.—A third locality has at last turned up for this shrub, which is so conspicuous and singular that one wonders at its so long evading notice. The peculiar flower-buds were

detected by Mr. S. T. Kelsey, about a month ago, on Grandfather Mountain, Caldwell Co., N. C., and now, 23d of May, he sends vouchers in the form of beautiful clusters of fresh flowers. He writes: "It grows just everywhere in clumps and patches on the southern and southeastern slopes, at 4,500 to 5,500 feet elevation, but most abundant and vigorous in moist stations, and is associated with *Rhododendron maximum*, *R. Catawbiense* and *Kalmia latifolia*. The locality is only two or three miles from Linville."

This ground has been hunted over by famous botanists of old. Both Michaux and Fraser knew Grandfather in the last century, and Lyon and Curtis in the early part of the present one. Dr. Gray, in a letter to Sir William Hooker, has given an account of his predecessors in its exploration, and of his own researches into its Flora. A land made classic by such associations, and rich in numerous rare, and even in some endemic plants, has attracted many herbourizing lesser botanists; but all this time *Rhododendron Vaseyi* has concealed itself even better than its less showy neighbor *Shortia*.

It will be remembered by those who had the opportunity to furnish him specimens, how delighted was Dr. Gray to find an American true Azalea with a rotate-campanulate corolla, which even proved upon better examination to be bilabiate irregular. He considered it one of the most interesting of the now very numerous cases of remarkable relationship between the Chino-Japanese and the Alleghanian floras.

The present flowers are true to the amended description in the Gazette. They are bright purple, varying to pinkish-white, and scentless. The shrub is 10 to 15 feet high and is nearest in habit to *Rhododendron calendulaceum*. Mr. Kelsey states that it is easily transplanted, adapts itself readily to cultivation, and is already an ornamental bush in many house-yards at Highlands, where it flowers profusely before any leaves appear.

BALTIMORE, MD.

JOHN DONNELL SMITH.

Aquilegia Canadensis, L., var. *flaviflora* (Tenney), Britton.

An account of a yellow variety of *Aquilegia Canadensis* in the April BULLETIN suggests calling attention to the following in the Flora of Essex County, Mass. (Essex Institute Bulletin, 1880).